

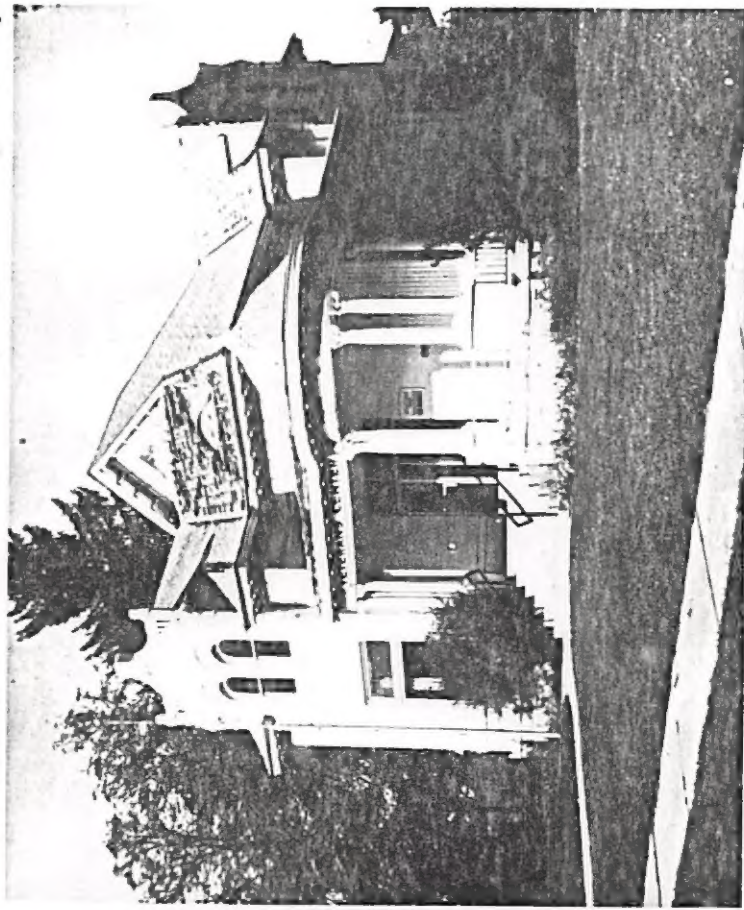
p290

point that it became desirable for the two governing bodies to create one board to give recreation supervision and direction. It has continued to grow and currently is operating under the general supervision of the Provo Parks and Recreation Department with Floyd Giles representing the city as supervisor. A professional school staff on a cooperative basis directs this program. A 1971-72 Provo City Annual Report stated, "The excellent park and recreation facilities of Provo have brought widespread publicity to the city."¹²

All of the major sports have been popular in Provo, and the citizens have provided good support of these. One such example may be noted in the case of baseball. The *Provo Post* May 18, 1920, declared hundreds of men volunteered to build the ball park, the fence surrounding it, and the grandstand.

Baseball in Provo dates back to 1869 and the coming of the railroad. The Smith brothers, who settled and lived near the mouth of Provo Canyon, were among the first to play baseball. They did much to make the game popular.

Among the sports that are readily available to Provo citizens are the many games and athletic contests provided by Brigham Young University



The present Veterans' Center in Provo, (287 East 200 North) has a distinct history. For many years it was the home of George H. Brimhall, President of Brigham Young University. Franklin Stewart Harris was the successor to Dr. Brimhall both as the University President and the occupant of this interesting house.

p291

and the public schools. Not only are the sports popular in which university and high school students participate, but likewise Provo citizens have great interest in games and contests that the university particularly sponsors as a source of entertainment for the public. One such activity (among many) is the annual invitational meet sponsored by the university. Typical of many reports the *Provo Herald* April 26, 1936, declared the invitational track and field meet was a "brilliant performance." The report stated, "Music, color, chills, thrills, courage, power, speed, and new spring clothes were all in abundance." The newspaper particularly praised the "Girl's Posture Parade" saying it was an imposing spectacle.

The university and Provo sponsor the annual Timpanogos Hike that attracts many people.

Celebrations centering around the Fourth of July have an interesting history in Provo. This colorful and patriotic occasion extends back more than forty years. Men who were soldiers in World War I initiated this annual special occasion. A newspaper report in 1936 stated, a committee of "Legionaires of Provo Wednesday night was chosen for the Fourth of July celebration of giant proportions. The Independence Day fete this year, which has reached major proportions in Provo under the guidance of the Post 13 Legion . . ." will be enlarged.¹³

During these many years very colorful parades have created an interest that bring people to Provo from throughout the State. The pageantry at night has been such that several evenings of the performance are necessary to accommodate the crowds.

Following the "Legion" effort, the Provo Chamber of Commerce, then the ecclesiastical wards of the Mormon Church (other churches were invited to participate) and later the city have directed this annual occasion.

Parades were popular in Provo in very early history. City records report early parades and special celebrations on July 4 and July 24 were important annual occurrences. As early as 1876 the city treasury was used to pay for the July celebrations.

As a part of its culture Provo has initiated and perpetuated a series of incidents that substantially add to the glamour and fascination of the city. Provo is a town with many parades. For more than thirty-five years (commencing in December, 1936) Provo has had a Christmas parade with the initial lighting of the city for holiday season. Earlier the schools provided most of the floats, but in recent years the city and business institutions provide these.

Brigham Young University, as a part of the school's homecoming occasion, has a magnificent parade each autumn depicting many of the ideals for which the university stands. This parade is interspersed with scores of bands from Utah and adjoining states.